Soyabean Crop Damaged in Maharashtra

296. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that soyabean crop has been badly damaged by the heavy rain in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra in October, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have sent a Central team there to assess the damage caused;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefore; and

(e) the recommendations made by it and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The State Government of Maharashtra has reported that the yield of soyabean crop is likely to be reduced by 20% because of wetting and cracking of pods of the standing crop of soyabean due to the heavy rains in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra in the month of October, 2005.

(c) to (e) The State Government of Maharashtra has not submitted any memorandum to the Government of India on damage to soyabean crop due to the heavy rain in October, 2005. Central Team has not been deputed to the State of Mahrashtra to assess the damage caused by heavy rains to soyabean in October, 2005.

Closure of Agmark Laboratories

297. MS.PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact the AGMARK laboratories are facing closure in the name of reorganization of the system;

(b) what is the position of the laboratory based at Bhubaneswar in Orissa and what is the action plan of Government to adjust its staff, once it is closed down;